

The Planning Process

The environmental planning process is divided into six phases. The US 17 widening project is currently in Phase 2:

Phase 1

Data Collection
Inventory of Planning Issues
Document Community Concerns
Transportation Needs Study

Phase 2

Preliminary Alternatives Identification
Initial Field Studies
Refinement
First Citizens Informational Workshop
Selection of Alternative(s) for Detailed Study

Phase 3

Preliminary Design
Detailed Field Studies
Environmental Analysis
Technical Reports
Second Citizens Informational Workshop

Phase 4

Environmental Assessment (EA)
Combined Public Hearing

Phase 5

Review Comments of the EA
Review Public Hearing Transcript

Phase 6

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

US 17 HOTLINE

Call the toll free hotline

1-800-813-0323

Terry Snow, P.E. or David Wilver, P.E. can answer your questions between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Current Project Activities

Phase I of the planning process is complete and Phase 2 is underway. The initial field studies identifying wetlands, cultural resource sites, hazardous materials/waste locations, plant and wildlife communities and existing noise levels are in progress. The first citizens workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 1995, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Maysville Elementary School Cafeteria.

Following the workshop, the alternative(s) for detailed study will be selected and Phase 3 of the planning process will begin.

Evaluation Factors

The planning and environmental study will identify and evaluate two alternatives, the Build Alternative and the "No-Build" or "Do-Nothing" Alternative. The Build Alternative evaluation will be based on investigations of four major areas:

- **Environmental:** wetlands, floodplains, water quality, water resources, hazardous materials, farmlands, noise, air quality and protected plant and animal species.
- **Social:** neighborhoods, community facilities, recreational areas, cultural resources, relocation of residences, businesses and non-profit organizations.
- **Engineering:** safety, traffic, constructability, construction costs, bridges and culverts and maintenance of traffic during construction.
- **Economic:** local or regional economy, land use planning, land development, established business districts, highway-related businesses and employment.

The Study team would like to receive your comments as part of our evaluation. The alternative(s) for detailed study will be selected following the first Citizens Informational Workshop.

Right-of-Way and Construction

The NCDOT 1996-2002 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) schedule indicates that right-of-way acquisition will begin in fiscal year 1997 with construction beginning in fiscal year 2001.